Nazwisko KAWALEC

Imiona WITOLD GRACJAN **Pseudonim** .....

Z domu .....

Data urodzenia 17.11.1922 **Miejscowość, kraj** WILNO

Data śmierci 24.12.2003 **Miejscowość, kraj** DEVON

Lat życia 81

Adres cmentarza DEVON, Crediton

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Źródła: 29.1.04 DP 22.1.04 THE TIMES

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Archiwum Osobowe Emigracji im. B. Jeżewskiego Biblioteka Polska POSK w Londynie.

Zawód ART. RZEŹBIARZ **Tytuły naukowe** .....

Rodzaj wojska P.S.P. **Stopień wojskowy** ST. SIERŻ.

Odznaczenia RÓŻNE

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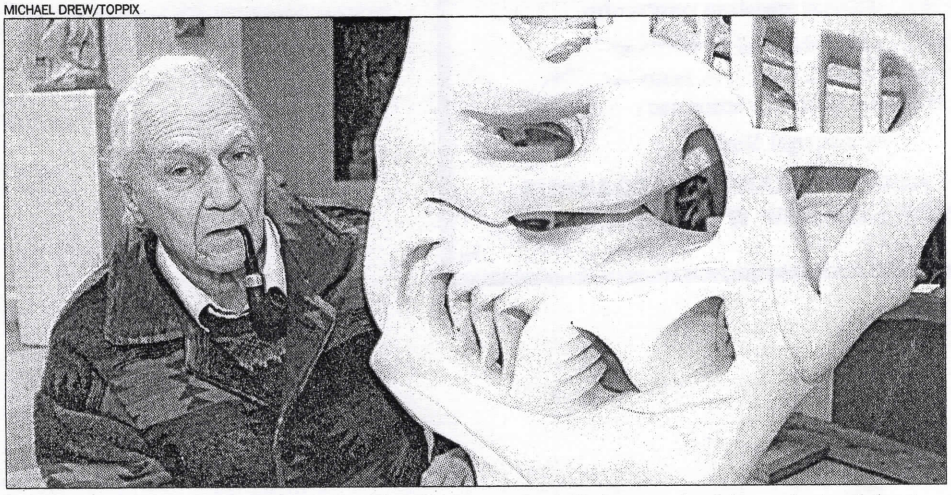
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The Times, Jan. 22, 2004

WITOLD GRACJAN KAWALEC

Polish-born sculptor whose work was profoundly affected by his wartime experiences

MICHAEL DREW/TOPPIX



Kawalec with one of his abstract works. He was especially known for his works in alabaster

WITOLD GRACJAN KAWALEC was a Polish-born sculptor whose artistic life was profoundly affected by his wartime experiences. He concentrated on abstract forms which would appeal to and guide human emotions. Perhaps his best known work is the sculpture he designed for Dame Cicely Saunders's hospice at Sydenham, south-east London. This shows St Christopher crossing the water with Christ on his back, which later became its logo.

Born in Vilnius, then in Poland, the son of a diplomat, Kawalec first studied carving under a private tutor. When Russia followed Germany by invading Poland, Witold, then 17, began carrying messages for an embryo resistance movement, but he was soon captured by Russian soldiers. Later he made his way to Syria and Palestine where he joined a Polish Army unit. He took part in the bitter fighting at Tobruk during the North Africa campaign. From North Africa he joined the RAF in England.

In 1942 he was accepted for pilot training, and while serving near Nottingham he met Danuta Banszel, a fellow Pole who had also made the long and difficult journey from home via the Middle East. Danuta was serving in the WRAF, and they married. As a sergeant pilot, Kawalec was then posted to 307 fighter squadron based at Exeter.

After the war he and his wife moved to Nottingh where he took a two-y diploma course at Notti ham University College. then, continued his studie sculpture at Nottingh College of Art where became a visiting teacher 1953 he opened his first stu and from then on he wor as a freelance sculptor. He p duced much of his work alabaster, a locally mi material which polishes t translucent finish. Over next 30 years he had m than 100 one-man shows many commissions.

In 1976 the couple move Devon and established a sc ture garden in an orch near Crediton.

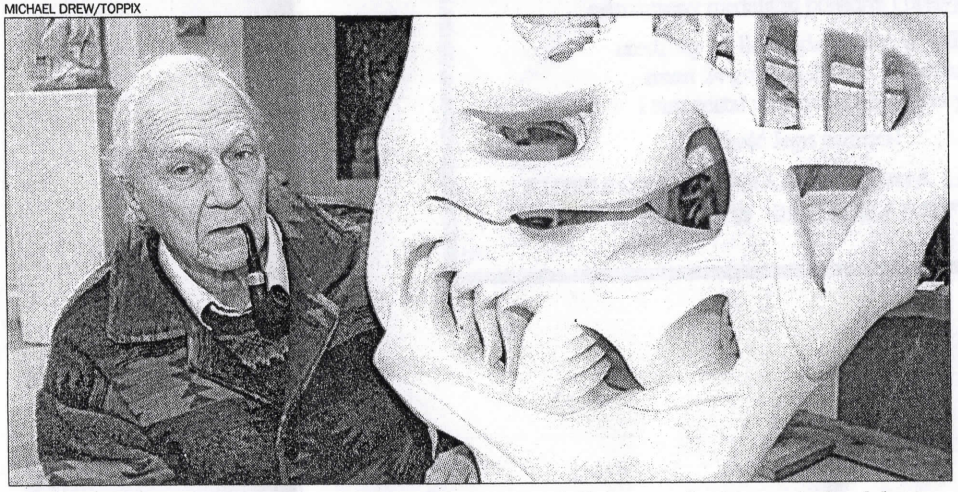
Witold Gracjan Kawalec, sculptor, was born on November 17, 1922. He died on December 24, 2003, aged 81.

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Odznaczenia RÓŻNE .....

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D. P. 29.1.04 Ś. † P.

WITOLD GRACJAN KAWALEC

st. sierżant-pilot Polskich Sił Powietrznych,
odznaczony medalami polskimi i brytyjskimi,

urodzony 17 listopada 1922 r. w Wilnie,
zmarł 24 grudnia 2003 r. w Devon
i tam został uroczyście pochowany.

Cześć Jego pamięci!

FUNDACJA STOWARZYSZENIA LOTNIKÓW POLSKICH W WIELKIEJ BRYTANII

1895